

To H. E. Señor Don Rufino de
Elizalde
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic.

Env 27
863

1. George Street,
Munster House,
C.C.

8th Dec 1864.

My dear Excellency,

I am happy to
confirm my previous
accounts as to the
constantly increasing
interest that is now
felt here with regard
to the Argentine
Republic. Scarcely a
day passes in which
I have not some
enquiry from young
men of good family

Concerning the
desirableness of
emigrating thither and
buying lands.

My last letters
from Major Rickard
regarding the San-
Juan Mines were
very satisfactory and
he will be steadily
supported by some of
the most eminent
Capitalists in London
and Paris. Should
his labours prosper
the result to the

Argentine Republic
will be extraordinary
owing to the confidence
it will create among
these gentlemen.

There is still no
belief on this side of
any early termination
of the American war.
Its continuance greatly
increases the disposition
of people to turn their
backs to Buenos Ayres.

I annex extracts
from recent articles
in the Times, and

I am
My dear Excellency
Very sincerely yours
N. B. Sampson

The agent of Messrs. Smith, Knight, and Co., of Westminster, is stated to have returned from La Plata by last mail, having been successful in obtaining from the Argentine Government a concession for the construction of 180 miles of railway from the port of Concordia, in the province of Entre Rios to Mercedes in the province of Carrientea. The line passes along the river Uruguay to the towns of Federacion, Monte Careros, Curuquatia, and Mercedes, and while it will open up and develop the internal resources of two of the richest provinces of the Republic, it will receive, in addition to its own, a considerable amount of traffic from the frontier towns of the Brazilian and Uruguay provinces. The cost of the line is guaranteed by the Government, and is not to exceed 13,000*l*. per mile.

The mercantile accounts from Buenos Ayres by the River Plate mail state that great dissatisfaction had been occasioned by the news that Mr. Parish, the English Consul-General at that city, had been appointed to be Consul-General at Havannah. The act is one of promotion, but it appears to have been received with regret by Mr. Parish himself as well as by the entire community. The British residents and merchants have accordingly addressed a memorial to Earl Russell, praying that the arrangement may be rescinded. With regard to commercial and financial affairs, the chief point in the present advice consists in the fact of the Provincial Senate having definitively sanctioned the law for the settlement of the paper currency. It is said to have many defects, but all of a nature that can be corrected hereafter. The foreign loan proposed by the Government was rejected and internal means were substituted. The wool clip this season is represented to be the best that has been obtained for some years. Beef-pooling has been commenced by some Americans on a large scale. The value of land was rising rapidly, especially in the neighbourhood of the railways now in progress. The first 10 miles of Mr. Wheelwright's line from the port of Rosario would be entirely complete in the course of the next month. With regard to the gold discoveries in the province of San Juan, nothing was yet known from actual survey, but considerable excitement had been caused, not merely by the statement that 600*oz*. in nuggets had been found by two men in the course of a couple of days, but also by the result of an assay of one piece of galena from a vein in the district, which gave a proportion of gold and silver equal to 2,128*oz*. per ton, of which the gold was 850*oz*. The size of this vein was not known, but a scientific writer observes with regard to it,—"I am inclined to believe from the unusual combination of sulphur, lead, gold, silver, copper, and iron in the mineral, a large deposit cannot exist." Of the general richness of the district there seems, however, to be no doubt.